



NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CERTS (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM) TO PARTICIPATE IN FULL-SCALE DISASTER DRILL

Over 150 participants from across the State of Florida will participate in the disaster drill at Homestead Sports Complex on Saturday, May 1st.

Miami-Dade County, FL – On Saturday, May 1, 2004, CERTs (Community Emergency Response Team) from across the State of Florida will participate in a full-scale mock disaster drill, which will allow the teams to practice skills they have learned in training during a realistic event. There will be approximately 100-150 CERT members participating, with a similar number of personnel in support roles. The exercise will be held at the Homestead Sports Complex, 1601 SE 28th Avenue, Homestead, FL, and will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Two simultaneous exercises will be conducted: one to practice fire suppression and extrication, and one to practice triaging victims at a disaster site. After sizing up the situation, each team will perform search and rescue, extrication, triage, medical operations, and fire suppression as necessary. The mock disaster puts the CERT teams to the test using various special effects and mouled victims.

CERTs are volunteer citizen teams, trained by the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management to mobilize after a disaster strikes to perform triage, establish medical treatment areas, provide basic first aid, light search and rescue, extrication and limited fire suppression. In times of crisis, CERT helps public safety officials by assisting in these life-saving operations.

The Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has become a part of a national network of CERT communities. OEM has developed a program that is designed to help neighborhoods prepare for and respond after catastrophic disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and other major emergencies.

For more information on the Statewide CERT Exercise, or on the CERT program, visit www.miamidade.gov/oem.

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